

**Congressman Paul A. Gosar**  
Floor Speech  
Gosar Amendment #092  
*CJS Appropriations Act for FY 15*

Mr. Chairman (or Madam Chair), I have an amendment at the desk.

*[The Clerk will report]*

*[Amendment XX offered by Dr. Gosar of Arizona—(reads amendment)]*

Mr. Chairman (or Madam Chair),

I rise today to offer an amendment which seeks to bolster an important program in the Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act.

This amendment is fully paid for by cutting wasteful spending and specifically takes \$8 million from office space for DOJ bureaucrats in order to bolster Prescription Drug Monitoring activities.

This program is the Harold Rogers Prescription Drug Monitoring Program.

The gentleman, Mr. Rogers, is the chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, and has spent years on the issue of combating prescription drug abuse in our great country.

This problem is truly plaguing our streets, our youth and our communities.

Prescription drug abuse is contributing to addiction, health deterioration, and even untimely death amongst many of our friends and loved ones.

Prescription drug abuse also fuels the demand for other illicit drugs such as cocaine, methamphetamine, ecstasy, and heroin—much of which flows over our Southwest Border and into my home State of Arizona—along with human trafficking, gunrunning and murder.

I see drug abuse all over my state, and I know I am not the only member that has been affected by rampant drug abuse in my community.

As a dentist for 25 years, I am well aware of how easy it can be for doctors and patients to abuse the prescription drug system.

And with a background in chemistry and biology, I know how easy it can be for people, both young and old, to become addicted to these substances.

The primary purpose of the Harold Rogers Prescription Drug Monitoring Program is to enhance the capacity of regulatory and law enforcement agencies to collect and analyze controlled substance prescription data through a centralized database administered by an authorized state agency.

States that have implemented Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs can collect and analyze prescription data much more efficiently than states where the collection of prescription information requires the manual review of pharmacy files.

It is this body's duty, through the annual Appropriations process, to evaluate which programs are worthwhile, and which are not.

We must decide which programs should have their funding increased, which should be reduced, and which should be zeroed-out.

It is not an easy job, but it is the job we were each elected to do.

The Prescription Drug Monitoring Program has shown promising results, but we must not give up.

It is easy to look past these issues, but we must think of our families, our friends, and our future generations.

I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this amendment, and with that Mr. Chairman (or madam chair), I yield back.